



Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilot *St. Petersburg, FL*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA Region 4 selected the City of St. Petersburg for a Regional Brownfields Pilot. The brownfields project is part of a comprehensive set of commitments made by the Federal Interagency Task Force to St. Petersburg. The Task Force was formed by President Clinton in response to the two civil disturbances that occurred in the City in the fall of 1996 and includes seven Federal agencies: Department of Labor, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Commerce, Department of Education, Department of Justice, the Small Business Administration, and EPA. The Task Force worked with local and State officials to identify Federal resources to assist the affected community in order to address the problems which precipitated the unrest. The Federal agencies will provide both financial and technical assistance to the City.

OBJECTIVES

The City of St. Petersburg's objective is to implement a number of activities to support a demonstration site project in the Federal Enterprise Zone. The Enterprise Zone overlaps the Business Retention Target Area, which is west of the City's Central Business District. The City will work with the Brownfields Working Group and its teams (Plan Action, Community Strategies, Finance, and Regulatory) to build a

PILOT SNAPSHOT



St. Petersburg, Florida

Date of Award:
April 1997

Amount: \$200,000

Site Profile: The Pilot targets brownfields activities in the Federal Enterprise Zone and the Business Retention Target Area west of the City's Central Business District.

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community base of understanding, resources, and support for the Brownfields Redevelopment Project. Ultimately, the City anticipates that its revitalization efforts will create jobs and stimulate economic development.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Pilot is:

- Developing a site selection process and a community participation strategy;
- Involving the public in the brownfields redevelopment process through workshops and other outreach strategies;
- Identifying and supporting new funding options for brownfields redevelopment; and
- Developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) database of brownfields sites.

LEVERAGING OTHER ACTIVITIES

Experience with the St. Petersburg Pilot has been a catalyst for related activities including the following.

- EPA will work with the City of St. Petersburg to inventory and identify properties in the Business Retention Target Area that may require assessment to determine the presence of environmental contaminants and hazards.
- EPA, the City, and St. Petersburg Junior College are working together to develop a coordinated approach to implement environmental job training programs.
- A brownfields site inventory report for St. Petersburg has been completed.